



# Acts of Faith

Faith Evangelical Lutheran Church  
The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod  
Kewanee, Illinois



March 2010

Volume 10, Issue 3

## The Strength of the Son

I keep hearing from people that this Springtime is one of the most anticipated in recent memory. This winter's especially harsh combination of dreary darkness, bitter cold, ice, snow, and slush, has made many especially yearn for the warmth and brightness of Springtime.

This year, the first official day of Spring is Saturday, March 20<sup>th</sup>. (If you're *really* anxious for that official start of Spring, look for it at 12:32 pm on the 20<sup>th</sup>). But, good news is that the sunlight will have been increasing in strength for weeks *before* March 20<sup>th</sup>, bringing warmth, light, and hope to the cold upper Midwest of this country.

The Lenten season in which we're in is a reminder of hope also—a sure and certain hope. The word “Lent” comes from the Old English word “*lencten*,” which referred to “spring”—the lengthening of the days, and the strengthening of the sunlight after winter is over.

In the Church Year, Lent is that time when we especially focus on the gift of eternal life earned for us by Jesus' suffering and death—His carrying the complete, dismal burden of our sins upon the cross; and paying for it completely.

Thus, we know with certainty that we will have “eternal Spring” in heaven. We don't look to ourselves for light and hope and life, but we look to the Son—the Son of God—and His cross for that assurance.

*The prophet Malachi reminds us, “For behold, the day is coming, burning like an oven, when all the arrogant and all evildoers will be stubble. The day that is coming shall set them ablaze, says the LORD of hosts, so that it will leave them neither root nor*

*branch. But for you who fear my name, the sun of righteousness shall rise with healing in its wings. You shall go out leaping like calves from the stall” (Malachi 4:1-2).*

Few of us will be able to go “leaping like calves” into the springtime warmth of this earth—hobbling like aged Herfords might be more like it. However, all those who look to the strength of the Son of God for the assurance of their eternal life *will* “leap like calves” in the blessed eternity of heaven; where, “*The sun shall be no more your light by day, nor for brightness shall the moon give you light; but the LORD will be your everlasting light, and your God will be your glory*” (Isaiah 60:19).



In the meantime, where do we find true light, warmth, and hope? No, not in Florida or Arizona. We find it right here in Kewanee, at 620 Hepner Drive, even on cloudly Sunday mornings and dark Wednesday evenings.

The psalmist reminds us of the warmth and light which are found only in the House of God, “*For a day in your courts is better than a thousand elsewhere. I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God than dwell in the tents of wickedness. For the LORD God is a sun and shield; the LORD bestows favor and honor. No good thing does he withhold from those who walk uprightly. O LORD of hosts, blessed is the one who trusts in you!*” (Psalm 84:10-12)

There's no place on this earth where the strength of the Son is stronger than in His House, around His Word and Sacraments. Come in, and let Him be your “*sun and shield, bestowing you favor and honor*”

In Christ,

*Pastor Fischer*

**March's Calendar**

- 01 Board of Education & P.O.M, 7 PM
- 02 Adult Information Class, 7 PM
- 03 Lenten Supper & Fellowship,  
5:30-6:30 PM
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Midweek Lenten Service, 7 PM**
- 07 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Lent**
- 08 Circuit Pastors' Meeting,  
Coal Valley, 9:00 AM
- 09 Adult Information Class, 7 PM
- 10 Lenten Supper & Fellowship,  
5:30-6:30 PM
- 4<sup>th</sup> Midweek Lenten Service, 7 PM**
- 14 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Lent**
- 16 Women of Faith, 1 PM
- Adult Information Class, 7 PM
- 17 Lenten Supper & Fellowship,  
5:30-6:30 PM
- 5<sup>th</sup> Midweek Lenten Service, 7 PM**
- 18 Elders' Meeting, 6:30 PM
- Church Council Meeting, 7:30 PM
- 21 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Lent**
- 23 Adult Information Class, 7 PM
- 24 Lenten Supper & Fellowship,  
5:30-6:30 PM
- 6<sup>th</sup> Midweek Lenten Service, 7 PM**
- 28 Palm Sunday**
- 30 Adult Information Class, 7 PM
- 31 No Wednesday evening service due to  
April 1<sup>st</sup> Maundy Thursday service and  
April 2<sup>nd</sup> Good Friday service.



\*\*\*\*\*  
 \* **Women of Faith Meeting** \*  
 \* Women of Faith will meet on \*  
 \* Tuesday, March 16th, 1:00 PM. \*  
 \* The hostess will be Cheryl \*  
 \* Snyder; and the guest speaker will be Nancy \*  
 \* Eddy, the President of the Circuit LWML. \*  
 \* All women of the congregation are invited to \*  
 \* attend. \*  
 \*\*\*\*\*



**Lotteries and Losers**

From Dave Ramsey's Newspaper  
Column (2-16-10)

**Dear Dave,  
I've been playing the lottery a  
bit lately. I'm a Christian, and  
I was wondering what your**

**views are on this. We've been struggling  
financially, and it seems that a chance to win  
millions is worth a buck or two. Your advice  
and opinion on this would be cherished.**

*Dawn*

Dear Dawn,  
You're kidding. Do you really want my opinion? I  
don't think you do, but here goes. I'll tell you  
ahead of time it's not going to be pretty!

Basically, you've told me that you're having money  
troubles and at the same time you're throwing  
money out the window. You can tell yourself that  
it's only a buck or two if you want, but that little bit  
of money represents a lot of financial  
irresponsibility in your life. You're thinking  
somebody has to win, right? Well, let me tell you  
something. You're more likely to be hit by  
lightning five times and survive than you are to win  
the lottery. Five times! How many people do you  
know who have been hit once by lightning and  
survived, much less five times?

You're not going to win, Dawn. Think I'm just  
being negative? No, I'm not. I'm being positive.  
I'm positive you're not going to win! Stop placing  
your hope in the wrong things.

Honestly, as a Christian, ask yourself if you believe  
God thinks this is a good use of your money. The  
lottery is a tax on poor people and people who can't  
do math. How do I know this? Because these are  
the only people who play the lottery!

*Dave*

From:  
[www.daveramsey.com/davesays/column/column/dave\\_says\\_2010-02-16](http://www.daveramsey.com/davesays/column/column/dave_says_2010-02-16)

*"And when you fast, do not look gloomy like the hypocrites, for  
they disfigure their faces that their fasting may be seen by others.  
Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. But when  
you fast, anoint your head and wash your face, that your fasting  
may not be seen by others but by your Father who is in secret.  
And your Father who sees in secret will reward you."*

Matthew 6:16-18

## Lenten & Holy Week Services: "Life Together"



Our series of midweek Lenten services continues this month. The theme of the services is "Life Together." The midweek Lenten services are at 7:00 PM. A light supper and fellowship time will be available any time between 5:30-6:30 PM.

### March 3: "This Is It???" (1 Peter 1:3-5)

Jesus said, "Today you will be with Me in paradise." Huh? We hear (and perhaps believe), "Life is short; get the most out of it here-and-now!"

### March 10: "How Do You Know Who I Am?" (1 Peter 2:9-12)

Jesus said to Mary, "Woman, here is your son," and to John, "Here is your mother." Do you bristle when people make claims on your life?

### March 17: "How Can I Believe in a God Who Would..." (1 Peter 4:12-25)

Jesus cried, "My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me" Is there vindication for believing in God even in the *toughest* times in life?

### March 24: "I Need This... and This... and This..." (1 Peter 4:1-6)

Jesus said, "I thirst." What do *you* need? *Why* do you need it?

## LCMS Foundation Unitrust

Enjoy Income and Tax Benefits Today, Provide for Family and Ministry Tomorrow



Since 1969, Americans have used Charitable Remainder Unitrusts to benefit themselves, their families and, ultimately, charity. Simply put, you transfer assets into a Unitrust created with The LCMS Foundation, and the Unitrust makes payments to you. This transfer often allows you to increase your income and enjoy tax advantages. When the trust terminates, the remainder of its value is distributed to your designated ministries.

This information is provided to help you create a Lifetime Plan for Giving™ that provides for the people you love and ministries you care about.

Contact our District gift planner to learn how you can establish a Unitrust.

David H. Rohe, Gift Planning Counselor  
Central Illinois District  
1850 N. Grand Ave. West  
Springfield, IL 62702-1626

Phone: 217-793-1802

Email: drohe@cidlcms.org

For more information on Unitrusts, please call, email or send in this coupon

Name:

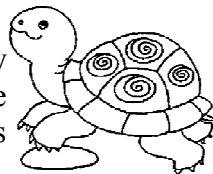
Address:

City, State ZIP

Phone: (    )

Email:

## They Had a Pet Turtle



That's all I can remember about my neighbors. What they did, where they were from, even their names have vanished from my memory. We lived in the apartment next to them about three years ago. We nodded hello every day and occasionally even stopped outside to chat. We saw them playing with their turtle out on the grass. We had plans to "hang out," but they never materialized.

"The neighbors seem kind of lonely," my wife said to me one day. We should invite them to church." We never did. A lot of Christians make the same mistake—and they miss a crucial opportunity to share the Gospel. We all have a thousand excuses for not talking to our neighbors. We're too busy or too transient. We don't want to overstep our bounds. But ultimately the chance to impact someone for Christ trumps our justifications. We should know more about our neighbors than what kind of pets they own.

From: Leading Outreach Newsletter, 2-25-09



### **Audio Bibles**

Audio versions of the Bible (NKJV) are available for loan now in the church library (in the Cry Room).

The Bibles are available in both cassette format and MP3 format. The MP3 format may be saved to, or played on a computer or MP3 player; or played on most DVD players.

Contact Pastor Fischer for information on how to own your own MP3 audio Bible (ESV) for \$11.99.

### **Labor Day Parade Float Help Needed**



There will be a combined meeting of the Board of Education and the P.O.M. Committee on Monday, March 1<sup>st</sup> at 7 pm. They will be discussing the float that Faith will have in the Labor Day parade. If you are interested or have suggestions, please attend the meeting, or see Mat Peed or Sharon Field. The committee is also looking for donation of supplies.

### **Sympathy**

We extend our sympathy to the families of the following individuals who have departed this life and have entered eternal life:

- ✦ Florence Statz, died February 16<sup>th</sup>. The funeral was February 19<sup>th</sup> at Faith Lutheran Church.
- ✦ Betty Jungjohann, mother of Linda Moeller, died February 24<sup>th</sup>. The funeral was February 27<sup>th</sup> in Davenport.

*“Then one of the elders addressed me, saying, ‘Who are these, clothed in white robes, and from where have they come?’ I said to him, ‘Sir, you know.’ And he said to me, ‘These are the ones coming out of the great tribulation. They have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.’”*

Revelation 7:13-14



### **Abilities Plus Workshop Funding Cut**

The State of Illinois has cut funding to the Abilities Plus workshop. The workshop provides work training to individuals with disabilities who would otherwise not have the opportunity to develop work skills.

How can you help? You, or your business, can help save the workshop through the “Support the Client Workshop Program.” You may make a one-time donation, or regular donations throughout the year. If your annual donation is \$1,000 or more a support sign will be mounted in the Client Workshop.

With your support, the Abilities Plus clients will receive:

- Job skills training enabling them to acquire a job in the community.
- Safety and daily living skills training they need to excel in the community.
- A feel of self-accomplishment for a job well done.
- The gratification that comes from knowing someone cares.

Your gift of any amount will be greatly appreciated. Please make checks payable to Abilities Plus Workshop. Mail to: Abilities Plus, 1100 N. East St. Kewanee IL 61443. Visa and MasterCard are also accepted.

For more information about the “Support the Client Workshop Program,” contact Abilities Plus (852-4626) or Pastor Fischer.



### **Hospice Volunteers Needed**

An orientation dinner will be held on Tuesday, March 16<sup>th</sup> for anyone interested in volunteering with the Kewanee Hospital Hospice. The dinner will be from 5:00-8:00 pm in the East Conference Room of the hospital.

For more information, or to register, please call Katrina Gerber at 852-7669.



## Earthquakes

Late-breaking news as this newsletter is being completed is that a massive earthquake has occurred in Chili. With the recent massive earthquakes in Haiti and Chili, and the many more smaller earthquakes happening throughout the world, we're reminded of the words of Jesus regarding the End Times, *"For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. There will be earthquakes in various places; there will be famines. These are but the beginning of the birth pains"* (Mark 13:8).

Earthquakes, and other natural disasters, are reminders to us that this earth isn't our permanent home. Since the Fall into Sin, this world has been corrupted by sin, the devil, and our own sinful nature. Jesus Christ will be coming in glory soon (perhaps very soon) to take us from this temporary, sin-corrupted, earth; to our permanent, trouble-free, heavenly home. We should certainly be prepared to meet Jesus in faith at *any* time; be it at the time of our death, or at the time of His Second Coming.

Throughout history, God has used earthquakes as "wake-up calls" to His complacent people. Yet, the "Reformation Psalm", Psalm 46, reminds believers, *"We will not fear though the earth gives way, though the mountains be moved into the heart of the sea, though its waters roar and foam, though the mountains tremble at its swelling"* (Psalm 46:2-3).

We also appreciate the words of warning and comfort which Martin Luther wrote concerning this Psalm, and all the earthly troubles which afflict us:

1. A mighty Fortress is our God,  
A trusty Shield and Weapon;  
He helps us free from every need  
That hath us now o'ertaken.  
The old evil Foe  
Now means deadly woe;  
Deep guile and great might  
Are his dread arms in fight;  
On Earth is not his equal.
2. With might of ours can naught be done,  
Soon were our loss effected;  
But for us fights the Valiant One,  
Whom God Himself elected.  
Ask ye, Who is this?  
Jesus Christ it is.  
Of Sabaoth Lord,  
And there's none other God;  
He holds the field forever.



## LCMS Continues Outreach to Haiti Quake Survivors

As the death toll in Haiti climbs toward 300,000 and with an estimated 1.2 million Haitians living on the streets, the Synod continues its efforts to reach out in mercy to its partner church, the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Haiti (ELCH). As of Feb. 24, LCMS members, churches, and schools from across the nation raised almost \$4 million and donated semi-truckloads of material donations for the LCMS response in Haiti. Thrivent Financial for Lutherans matched gifts to LCMS World Relief and Human Care, raising \$215,000.

LCMS WR-HC will continue to focus on providing temporary shelter to homeless Haitians, improving water and sanitation in places where the homeless are gathering, and continuing to supply food and hygiene items. Already, four Mercy Medical Teams (MMTs) have seen hundreds of critically ill patients in Jimani, and 1,200 more patients at clinics in Jacmel and Port-au-Prince.

Rev. Matthew Harrison said, "Those of us who have been on the ground in Haiti have been deeply traumatized. Yet we have suffered but the tiniest particle of what Haitians are suffering. I bury my thoughts in Christ's cross, the place I see the purpose of suffering most clearly. Haiti will remain Haiti. But I want the people of the Missouri Synod to know two things: 1. We have wonderful and capable Haitian Lutheran brothers and sisters serving others mightily with our help; and 2. Through specific strategic choices (in large measure by LCMS World Relief and Human Care), the LCMS today has tremendous capacity to reach out in love in time of disaster. Amid all the weakness and suffering, this is a great moment for the church. I'm proud of the LCMS."

For full coverage of LCMS efforts in Haiti, visit the LCMS World Relief and Human Care web site: [www.lcms.org/worldrelief](http://www.lcms.org/worldrelief). To make a gift that shares Christ's mercy and helps suffering Haitians, visit <http://givenowlcms.org>; call toll-free 888-930-4438; or mail donations marked "Haiti Earthquake Relief" to LCMS World Relief and Human Care, P.O. Box 66861, St. Louis, MO 63166-6861.

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Charles Heinrich 3/01  
Katherine Cook 3/02  
Bonnie Nuding 3/08  
Erica Grabbe 3/09  
Elizabeth Godke 3/11  
Deborah Woods 3/13  
Jaxson Hicks 3/14  
Eric Cervantez 3/16  
Steven Becker 3/19

Carol Schwefel 3/20  
Muriel Dilts 3/26  
Andrew Becker 3/27  
Cindy Ganschow 3/27  
Dale Siems 3/27  
Mae Watson 3/31

## Anniversaries

Julie & Roy Carpenter 3/04  
Cindy & Rick Ganschow 3/10  
Sandra & Raymond Heinrich 3/15  
Mary Kay & Marvin Newman 3/18  
Vary & Rev. Robert Fischer 3/23

### WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Sunday Worship Service, 9:00 AM  
Sunday School & Adult Bible Class, 10:30 AM

Wednesday Worship Service, 7:00 PM

Rev. Robert Fischer, Pastor

309-852-2787 (Church Phone)

309-714-1181 (Cell Phone)

309-853-5394 (Home Phone)

E-mail: [pastor@faithkewanee.org](mailto:pastor@faithkewanee.org)

Web Site: [www.faithkewanee.org](http://www.faithkewanee.org)

# Faith Lutheran Church

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Kewanee IL 61443-1202

Address Correction Requested

### March 2010 Newsletter



March 28th

"So they took branches of palm trees and went out to meet him, crying out, 'Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord, even the King of Israel!'" (John 12:13)